



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

GAIL FARBER, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

March 27, 2012

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

16 March 27, 2012

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

### **TUJUNGA WASH ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT ENCUMBER ADDITIONAL PROJECT FUNDS (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3) (3 VOTES)**

#### **SUBJECT**

This action is to authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to encumber additional project funds under the Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Tujunga Wash Ecosystem Restoration Project.

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

1. Authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to fund an additional \$840,000 for the Tujunga Wash Ecosystem Restoration Project.
2. Authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to advance an additional \$610,000 to the Corps of Engineers to cover the Corps of Engineers' share of additional costs to be reimbursed to the LACFCD when the Corps receives funding approval for the increased project costs.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On July 13, 2010, your Board authorized the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) or her designee to execute a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the implementation of the Tujunga Wash Ecosystem

Restoration Project (project). The project consists of creating a meandering stream along the west bank of the Tujunga Wash Channel and a 12-foot-wide trail along the west and east banks of the channel. In addition, native/riparian vegetation will be planted on both sides of the channel.

The project constitutes Phase II of the overall Tujunga Wash Environmental Restoration Efforts and extends the restoration from Vanowen Street to Sherman Way north of Phase I, which was completed on November 7, 2007, and included the implementation of a naturalized stream with native habitat along the Tujunga Wash between Oxnard and Vanowen Streets.

The PPA established a legally binding document between the Corps and the LACFCD that delineates both the Corps and the LACFCD's responsibilities and the cost-sharing requirements necessary for the Corps to construct the project, which has multiple objectives in the areas of water conservation, water quality, recreational enhancements, and ecosystem restoration.

The purpose of the recommended action is to authorize the Chief Engineer of the LACFCD or her designee to increase project funds provided by the LACFCD by \$840,000 due to increased project costs of \$2,565,000 and changes to the project scope not included to the Corps original construction contract. These changes include the addition of recreational amenities on the west side of the Tujunga Wash and improvements for the ease of future maintenance by the LACFCD.

To expedite the completion of the project, we are also requesting \$610,000 to advance to the Corps to pay for a portion of the Corps' share of increased costs of the project. The Corps proposes to repay this amount to the LACFCD upon obtaining authorization to fund the increased project costs.

Pursuant to Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, the Corps' contribution to the project cannot exceed a \$5,000,000 allotment. Accordingly, the LACFCD will have to cover a larger proportion of the total project costs than initially estimated.

Per the original cost share estimates, the LACFCD would fund 25 percent of the ecosystem restoration component, 50 percent of the recreational component, and 100 percent of the betterment component (items above what the Corps would typically include). Per the revised cost share estimates, the LACFCD will fund 24 percent of the ecosystem restoration component, 78 percent of the recreational component, and 100 percent of the betterment component.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3) by developing partnerships to effectively leverage our resources and using a collaborative effort to implement the project. The project has multiple benefits for the residents by creating improvements in the areas of water conservation, water quality, recreation, and ecosystem restoration.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no impact to the County General Fund. The total project cost was originally estimated to be \$4,525,000. The LACFCD has already provided funds in the amount of \$1,250,000 for our share of the total project costs per the PPA adopted by your Board on July 13, 2010. The Corps' previous share for the total project costs was \$3,275,000.

The total project cost has increased by \$2,565,000 of which \$1,725,000 is to be paid by the Corps and \$840,000 by the LACFCD, for a total estimated project cost of \$7,090,000. The Corps has

already allocated \$1,115,000 for their share of this increased amount. Upon approval of the full \$5,000,000 allotment, the Corps will reimburse the LACFCD \$610,000 for their respective share of the increased project costs.

The LACFCD is providing \$271,000 of in-kind services for project coordination, design review, and monitoring associated with the increase. In addition, the LACFCD will fund \$569,000 in cash contributions for the increased project costs. Sufficient funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Flood Control Fund Budget.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On July 13, 2010, your Board adopted the PPA with the Corps.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

On July 13, 2010, Agenda Item No. 34, your Board considered and adopted by reference the Finding of No Significant Impact for the Tujunga Wash Ecosystem Restoration Project.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

There will be no negative impact on current services.

Approval of the recommended action will benefit the LACFCD by providing necessary funds to the PPA in order to complete the project as envisioned. This action will not interfere with the primary mission of the LACFCD.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Watershed Management Division.

Respectfully submitted,



GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:GH:sw

c: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)  
County Counsel  
Executive Office